

Those of ordinary skill know that, in the electro-mechanical arts, a module is an independent unit that is part of a larger unit, or a packaged functional assembly of components for use with other assemblies. Inherent in these meanings is that the module is attachable, as a unit, to the other assemblies or the larger unit. Unless permanently attached during assembly of the larger unit, the module is also removable as a unit. See, for example, Lunar Excursion Module (LEM vehicle), which was attached to the Apollo vehicle for the astronaut voyage to the moon.

Lines 6-7 on page 3 prove that, in the instant application, the word "module" has only the "attachable as a unit" meaning. Only with that meaning do lines 15-19 on page 3 make sense. In Fig. 1 the module 9 is shown clearly as a separate unit at the top center of the figure. The brief descriptions of Figs. 2-9 on page 4 again are consistent only with the meaning of "module" that it is a self-contained assembly of parts.

Thus the claimed module is a self-contained unit which can be installed as one piece, as is.

The rejection

Lines 7-14 on page 4 of Paper No. 6 refer to Fig. 14. Applicants submit that no one of ordinary skill in the art would say that Fig. 14 shows a module. Fig. 14 shows a portion of central hub portion 145a (col. 9, lines 8-10) of control knob or dial 145, arcuate cam slot or groove 160 (col. 9, line 85; col. 10, lines 9, 17 and 23) and passageway 165 (col. 10, lines 19-21) used to access the cam follower 161 in order to adjust it. The knob 145 is shown in cross section in Figs. 2 and 3. The knob 145 is held "in relatively rotatable position about the longitudinal axis of the casing 21" by screw 151 threaded into stub shaft 149 (Figs. 2, 3; col. 9, lines 15-21). When the knob 145 is in its off position, projection 145c engages the resilient contact arm 91 to open the main switch 86 shown in Figs. 8, 9.

Was the intention of the text at lines 7-14 on page 4 of Paper No. 6 to refer to Fig. 13, which "is a schematic circuit diagram" (col. 2, lines 55-57)? This figure shows the mains terminals, the mechanical parts of the speed governor including the vibratory speed control switch 87, and the start means switch 86.

Does Fig. 13 show a module?

The end bracket 36 (Figs. 1-3) is a critical element showing the division of the mixer into

the motor and mechanical governor section (the bracket 36 and everything to its right) and certain switch parts to the left. The motor 22 has a front bearing 37 in a wall 38 (Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 30-33), a rear bearing 34 in the bracket 36, and a shaft 28 (col. 3, line 20) extending from the front gear area, through wall 38, armature 27 and bracket 36 to a thrust bearing button 45 (col. 3, lines 45-49).

- 5 Major mechanical parts of the speed control, which include the centrifugal governor 64 formed by weights 75 and associated links (Fig. 2; col. 4, lines 38-53), are located in the space between the end bracket 36 and wall 38.

Other important parts of the control devices are underneath brackets which are fastened to the left, or rear, side of end bracket 36. In particular, Fig. 2 shows an unnumbered screw attaching
10 bracket 142 to the bracket 36, while col. 8, lines 49-50 refer to screw 143 holding heat shield plate 141 to bracket 142. The other end of shield 141 presses against fin 140 which is preferably part of bracket 36 (col. 8, lines 47-59).

The speed switch 87 has a resilient member 94 riveted to insulating blocks 106,107 which are fastened to the bracket 36 by screws 108 (Figs. 2 and 5; col. 6, lines 12-16). Movable contact
15 92 is permanently fastened to member 94 (col. 6, lines 39-41). The fixed (except for changes in speed setting) contact 93 is mounted from the same insulating blocks but is adjusted by cam follower 161 in response to rotation of knob 145 (col. 10, lines 3-33). At the same time, the knob 145 functions as a cover for the various switch contacts, and is removable (col. 10, lines 48-57).

The two mains terminals, to which the power cord 26 and its conductors 84, 85 are
20 connected (col. 5, lines 63-67), are apparently somewhere inside the motor housing 21, and therefore cannot be said to be even on the same mechanical assembly with the blocks 106, 107.

The speed switching means of Jepson has two vital parts: the intermittently closed switch contact set 92-93, and the governor mechanism which periodically opens and closes the switch contacts so as to obtain an apparently stable speed. No one ordinary skill would say that the
25 governor mechanism 64 and the switch 87 are part of one module. Rather they are mechanically connected parts of different assemblies.

As the above discussion makes clear, many individual pieces of the switch assemblies are separately fastened to the end bracket 36 on one side, while other vital parts are located on the other. End bracket 36 also has a vital role to hold the motor shaft in place. Accordingly, no one of
30 ordinary skill in the electrical appliance arts would describe the parts shown in Fig. 13 as "a

module." Rather, the various components are parts of different assemblies in different locations in the mixer.

CONCLUSION

5 All formal matters are complied with, and claims 13 and 22 and those dependent therefrom are shown to be patentable. Early favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

10 Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP PARAGRAPHS

Replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 3-12 as follows:

5 For a hand-held mixer in accordance with the invention and a switching means
configuration in accordance with the invention it has proved to be very advantageous when the
interference-suppression means are also incorporated in the module because this results in a
particularly simple construction, in which practically all the electrically relevant parts of the hand-
held mixer, except for the motor, are combined to [a] form an easy-to-mount module. However, it
10 is to be noted that in the case of special requirements an interference suppression capacitor
provided as interference suppression means may alternatively be arranged directly on the motor for
a hand-held mixer in accordance with the invention, which capacitor can discharge via the motor
windings, as a result of which no separate discharge resistor is needed in that case.

15 Replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 19-22 as follows:

Furthermore, it has proved to be very advantageous when the [embodiments as defined
in claim 4 and claim 9 are realized.] module further comprises:
a supporting member bounded by a bounding surface,
20 electrically conductive contact strips connected to the supporting member in the
area of the bounding surface and extending parallel to a strip direction,
a first slider which is guided so as to be movable relative to the supporting
member parallel to the strip direction and which serves as a mating-contact holder and carries at
least two mating contacts which are interconnected in an electrically conductive manner, which
25 cooperate with the contact strips and which together with the contact strips) form the speed
switching means,
a second slider which is guided so as to be movable relative to the supporting
member and which serves as switching actuator, and
a switching contact which is disposed in the path of movement of the second
30 slider and which forms part of the start means.

Tests have proved that these embodiments are particularly advantageous, especially in view of a simple construction and a very low susceptibility to faults.

Replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 17-30 as follows:

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The first module 9 further includes a second slider 116, which is movable relative to the supporting member 85 and which serves as a switch actuator. In the area of its end 117 the second slider 116 has a laterally projecting limb 118. The limb 118 is disposed in the path of movement of the lever arm 25 of the second movable actuating means 21, which are movable with the aid of the second switching handle 24 against the force exerted by the return spring 21A. In the area of its
10 other end 119 the second slider 116 is connected to a substantially U-shaped member 120 whose limb 121, which is remote from the second slider 116 serves to and is adapted to cooperate with the actuating pin 101 of the microswitch 100. A return spring 123 for the second slider 116 is attached to a pin 112, which projects from the second slider [123] 116, and has its other end attached to a pin
15 124, which projects from a cover 125 of the first module 9. The cover 125 is locked to the supporting member 85 with the aid of latching projections 126, 127, 128 and 129. The parts of the first module 9 which lie between the supporting member 85 and the cover 125 are retained and partly guided with the aid of the cover 125.

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Replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 3-13 as follows:

In the hand-held mixer 1 shown in Fig. 1 the speed switching means 60 and the start means 61 form a switching means configuration 130 realized by means of a single module, namely by means of the first module 9. In addition to the switching means configuration 130, this first module 9 has two mains terminals [19] 10 and 11 and the interference suppression means 16, which
25 has proved to be advantageous in view of a simple and compact construction. Combining the two mains terminals [11] 10 and 11, the interference suppression means 16, the speed switching means 60 and the start means 61 to the first module 9 also has the advantage of a substantially simpler mounting and the advantage of a substantially higher reliability. Moreover, this is achieved in that between the first module 9 and the motor 27 of the hand-held mixer 1 only a small number of
30 connecting leads which are external to the first module are required.